IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 55 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 48 as follows:

Claims 1-47 (Cancelled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A retractor useful in surgery, said retractor comprising

a main structural member defining

a handle region,

a distal region, and

an intermediate region,

said intermediate region and the distal region curving ~~on planes normal to a main transverse dimension thereby~~ continuously from the handle region to define a low profile form having a concave lower side and a convex upper side,

a light duct having an inlet end and an emission end, the light duct ducting light received at the inlet end to the emission end,

said light duct, at least in a part away from the inlet end, substantially conforming to the curving intermediate region of the main structural member so as to maintain a low profile thereover whilst having the emission end emitting light the

light duct has received and ducted towards a zone in which said distal region of the main structural member is being operated,

an attachment apparatus attaching to the light duct at or adjacent the inlet end of the light duct and engaging with, or for engagement with, the main structural member, and

a shielding member covering and protective of all of the light duct over the curving intermediate region ~~of the main structural member~~ and ~~protective of at least most of the light duct extending beyond the curving intermediate region towards~~ the distal region of the main structural member, said shield member at least attaching to the main structural member,

the emission end of the light duct being substantially of a flattened section of lesser height than the inlet end of the light duct for conforming to the low profile form of the intermediate region and distal region of the main structural member, the light duct splaying to said flattened section from a non flattened form at the inlet end of the light duct.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 48, wherein the light duct is a moulded transparent plastics member having the attachment apparatus integrally moulded therewith.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 48, wherein the light duct includes two moulded components.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 48, wherein said light duct is adapted at the inlet end to receive light ducted via one of a light cable, a fibre optic bundle and a tube.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 48, wherein a ratio between the light inlet surface area and light outlet surface area is a ratio of no less than 1:1 and no more than 1:11.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 52, wherein a ratio between the light inlet surface area and light outlet surface area is 1:2.2.

Claims 54-57 (Cancelled)

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 48, wherein the shielding member conforms closely to the flattened section of the light duct.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 48, further comprising at least one LED or other light source carried by the main structural member and positioned to provide light input into the inlet end of the light duct, and provision for mounting a battery and completing an operating circuit of the at least one LED or other light source, wherein when assembled the light duct illuminates the distal region.

Claim 60 (Cancelled)

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The retractor assembly according to claim 59 wherein completion of the operating circuit of the at least one LED or other light source is performed by a switch.

Claim 62 (Cancelled)